

# Sales Tax Subsidy Wanted by SCRTD

Claiming it faces "deficits" totaling \$35,000,000 through 1972, Southern California Rapid Transit District has launched a campaign to obtain a half-cent special sales tax levy for six months.

The rapid transit district estimates that such a sales tax collected within the district would raise \$36,000,000 and would provide SCRTD "about three years of financial stability."

The rapid transit district would get about 88 per cent of the funds raised — \$31,700,000

— with the rest going to cities who have their own bus lines. Among such cities are Torrance and Culver City. Under the plan, Culver City would get \$172,800 and Torrance would receive \$716,400.

In a letter to the Inglewood City Council, Samuel B. Nelson, transit district general manager, has noted that "assembly bill 2136, approved Thursday by the state assembly committee on transportation, incorporates this (special sales tax) solution" to the SCRTD financial problems.

He said the district will "be contacting you in the very near future for the purpose of meeting to discuss more fully this extremely important public issue."

It was noted that Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority was the forerunner of SCRTD and was authorized to issue \$40,000,000 in revenue bonds but that "no taxing authority or public financial assistance of any kind was provided."

SCRTD took over the system in 1964. It is claimed it has

the added handicap that it is prohibited from operating charter buses — the only municipal bus line in the nation with this restriction.

The district has paid off about \$8,000,000 of the original bonds but now needs \$7,000,000 per year for bond payments and a depreciation fund for new equipment.

Though the rapid transit district will show a \$471,859 "profit" for 1968, this is expected to turn into growing "deficits." Estimates for the future indicate "losses" of about \$4-

000,000 in 1969; \$7,000,000 in 1970; \$10,600,000 in 1971; and \$14,000,000 in 1972.

Unless the district gets the six-month, half-cent sales tax "subsidy," a consulting engineering firm has reported, SCRTD will have to increase fares or cut down services.

It notes that a transit fare hike in Chicago — from 30 to 40 cents — resulted in a loss of about 15 per cent in riders. The same probably would happen here, it was said, and this "especially affects low and limited income groups."

A cut in service to "balance

the budget," would, the firm said, result in skeletonizing service on many lightly used routes or elimination of service, also causing revenue loss.

"Both these steps," according to the report, "are in conflict with a policy of providing an adequate public transportation system."

The plan calls for the income from the "temporary sales tax" to be held by the state controller and be doled out to the SCRTD (and the participating municipalities) each year during the three-year period.

Information available makes it clear that the half-cent sales tax would provide only a "stop-gap" subsidy for the transit district and that it still will need financial assistance on a permanent basis — unless some means is found to halt its estimated, ever-increasing annual deficits.

Torrance

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**THE LAST STEP . . .** North High seniors (left to right) Becky Quijano, 18; Milbrun Caparino, 18; and Valerie Crawford, 16; make final preparations for graduation tonight, which includes the fitting of gowns and autographing of annuals. They will join more than 2,000 seniors from the four Torrance high schools who will be moving on to careers or higher education. (Press-Herald Photo)

# Local Schools Prepare 2,000 Grads' Diplomas

## Senior Classes Saying Goodbye

Diplomas will be handed out to more than 2,000 high school students at ceremonies to be held at Torrance's four high schools at 6 tonight.

North High, which will graduate 548 students, will have no valedictorian or salutatorian. Instead, two students, selected on a competitive basis, will deliver commencement addresses. Student speakers are Lisa Moriyama and Mark Hubert.

Receiving acknowledgement on the commencement program for achieving straight A averages will be Linda Cohen, William Davis, and Richard Lindel.

**PRESENTING** diplomas at North High will be Dr. Richard D. Guengerich, assistant superintendent, secondary education; Dr. Lloyd Jones, assistant superintendent, elementary education; and Dr. Owen Griffith, past president of the board of education.

South High will present a class of 652 graduates. In place of a valedictorian will be a valedictory group comprised of Kenneth Austin, Patricia Geddes, Barbara Goldenbert, Ernest Gutter, Patricia Harris, Roberta Hodges, Jeannette Monney, John Peterson, Debbie Purmort, Robert Saunders, and Stanley Schiff.

**COMMENCEMENT** address will be delivered by Alan Moore, instructor emeritus. Diplomas will be presented

by William Hanson, former member of the board of education; Dr. Louis Kaplan, assistant superintendent, special services; Dr. Frank Mattox, assistant superintendent, business; and Mrs. Kenneth Watts, president of the board of education.

Delivering the graduation speeches before 479 fellow-students at Torrance High will be Deborah Fay Eason, valedictorian; Sheila Brase, Donald Ogle, and Susan Peters. Salutatorian is Linda Wilson.

**SHEEPSKINS** will be handed out by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools; Dr. Albert Posner, assistant superintendent, educational media; and board member Burton Belzer.

Smallest graduating class will be at West High where 419 students will receive diplomas. Valedictorian is Dorothy Jean Cranshaw. Gay Sharon Smith has been named salutatorian. Dr. Robert Morton, assistant superintendent, personnel; Stanley Dunn, board of education member; and Bert Lynn, board of education member, will award diplomas to the graduates.

**GUEST** speaker will be Robert F. Hogan, executive secretary, National Council of Teachers of English.

Graduation exercises at the city's elementary schools will take place Thursday evening.

## 3 Soldiers Killed in Viet Action

Three area soldiers have been reported killed in action in Vietnam.

Medals were presented posthumously to Army Cpl. Allan B. Hill and Spec. 4 Christopher S. Smith last week at Fort MacArthur.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hill, 22403 Redbeam Ave., accepted their son's Silver Star from Col. Clark W. Trainer, representing the commanding general of the U.S. Sixth Army.

The Silver Star for Spec. 4 Smith was accepted from the colonel by Mrs. Susan Smith of 1608 Maple Ave.

Also reported killed is Pfc. Leon T. Culverhouse, husband of Mrs. Ellen M. Culverhouse, 25316 Doria Ave., Lomita.

## School Is Out - Then Back Again

When the dismissal bell rings Friday, school will be out for 34,000 Torrance youngsters.

For many of the students of the Torrance Unified School District, the end of the school year will mark a very temporary farewell to school. Almost 22,000 of them have indicated plans to return Thursday, June 19 for six weeks of summer school.

School doors will close for the summer school group Wednesday, July 30 and reopen Thursday, September 11 when an estimated 34,000 students are expected to return for fall semester classes.



**NEW PRESIDENT . . .** Robert Reifschneider (right), state president of the California Jaycees, swears in Jim Burger, incoming Torrance Jaycee president, at Saturday night's installation banquet at the Plush Horse. Special awards included Phil Scheaffer, Jaycee of the Year; Richard Marzec, Key Man; and Chuck Dishon, Jaycee of the Quarter. (Press-Herald Photo)

# Huge Shopping Center Project Moves Closer

Plans for a major addition to the Del Amo Shopping Center here moved a giant step forward last night when the City Council gave quick approval to a request to rezone a large parcel of property at Madrona Avenue and Carson Street.

Acting on the request of Del Amo Properties, the councilmen wasted no time in granting the rezoning on property which for years has been the Torrance plant for Chicago Bridge and Iron. Work at the manufacturing site is being phased out and the plant has made plans to relocate, but the city has been informed.

Construction is scheduled to begin by the end of this year on the major commercial project, the councilmen were told.

Harry Gorman, manager for Del Amo Properties here, said the design called for two major retail department stores which would anchor a shopping complex featuring an enclosed, air-conditioned mall.

Gorman urged the city to ex-

pedite plans to widen and improve Madrona Avenue which will be the eastern boundary for the project.

In what was tagged as a related item, the Council last

## Burglary Suspects Flee Police

A sharp-eyed Torrance woman called police Sunday when she observed two men inside the home of a neighbor, but the suspects had fled before police arrived.

Missing from the home of Rudolph Lisa, 50, at 435 Camino de Encanto, were items of jewelry worth \$1,645. The take included a woman's watch, two wedding rings, and costume jewelry.

Police said suspects had pried open a side window to gain entrance.

night also approved the vacation of a portion of Jefferson Avenue west of Crenshaw Boulevard, a move which may figure in relocation of Santa Fe Railway spur which now runs along Madrona Avenue, it was indicated.

In other action, the councilmen voted to request \$280,000 in county funds for the improvement of Del Amo Boulevard between Crenshaw Boulevard and Western Avenue. The councilman also appropriated \$2,000 from the city's drainage improvement fund for the planned project.

## Meeting Set

The Marina Amateur Radio Club will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse at El Nido Park 182nd and Kingsdale.

Final plans are being made for Field Day activities, for June 28 and 29. Anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend.



**FIRE VICTIM . . .** Firemen attend a wounded comrade, Bill Jarvis, after he was attacked by a swarm of bees while fighting a fire at 22412 S. Normandie Avenue Tuesday afternoon. He was taken to Central Receiving Hospital in Los Angeles with leg injuries. Flames caused heavy damage to the workshop and storage area at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Rabke, residents here for 60 years. Firemen from Los Angeles City unit No. 85, and Los Angeles County units 523 and 127 answered the alarm. (Press-Herald Photo)

## Blood Unit Will Visit Torrance

With 18 pints of blood being administered every hour in Los Angeles area hospitals, the Red Cross slogan, "Help Us Help," has real meaning for the Red Cross blood program.

Torrance residents will have a chance to help by donating blood when two bloodmobiles visit the area this month.

The first unit will be stationed at the Church of Jesus Christ L.D.S., 4110 W. 226th St., Friday, June 13 from 3 to 7:30 p.m.

A second mobile collection facility will visit the American Standard Co. cafeteria, 360 Crenshaw Blvd., Friday, June 20 from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

The Los Angeles-Orange Counties Red Cross blood program provides nearly 200,000 pints of blood annually to more than 200 community hospitals.

## Youth's Car Rams Two Vehicles

Two area youths sustained minor injuries Sunday when the car in which they were riding collided with two parked cars on 235th Street.

At the wheel of the car was Barry A. Odell, 19, of 1438 W. 216th St. He and his passenger, Donald R. Mayo, were treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Odell's car sustained total damage to the left front and side.